

**GEORGE WASHINGTON**  
By Carole L. Cooney

George Washington was the first President of the United States of America. When he was a child, his family lived in a large house surrounded by a lovely garden, an apple orchard and fields. In the autumn, George loved the orchard best because the trees were loaded with juicy apples. During one spring morning, George went into the vegetable garden and discovered a surprise.

**Setting:** The orchard; the vegetable garden

**Characters:**

Narrator

Mr. Washington

George

**Narrator:** George Washington's family lived on a large estate surrounded by a garden, orchard and field. George loved the orchard during the autumn season because of the large, juicy apples. One morning George and his father were taking a walk.

**George:** (running up and down the rows of apple trees) Come, Father! Look what I found!

**Father:** George, what are you doing hopping about like a little bird?

**George:** I just love to find big juicy apples that have fallen on the ground. Look at this one! It is perfect and it's ready for me to eat. This one's just for me!

**Father:** George, what did I tell you last autumn when your cousin offered you a large apple? You remember that you wanted it all for yourself. And, you said so right in front of your bothers and sisters. Do you remember?

**George:** Yes, Father.

**Father:** Didn't you learn an important lesson that time?

**George:** Yes, Father.

**Father:** George, tell me what lesson you learned.

**George:** That I shouldn't be greedy and selfish and that I should share with my brothers and sisters. I'm sorry, Father. Thank you for reminding me.

**Father:** I'm sure you will be more thoughtful next time we see these wonderful apples. Let's pick some and carry them home for everyone to enjoy.

**Narrator:** The seasons passed, and spring came. It was a magical time because little seeds began to sprout green shoots. One day, George saw something in the vegetable garden that he could hardly believe. He called to his father.

**George:** Father! I'm in the garden. You must come out and see what I see. Please come quickly.

**Father:** George, whatever can you be shouting about?

**George:** I think I can see my name in the cabbage patch. Look how they are lined up. Here's a "G" and an "E" and there's "O, R, G" and way over there is another "E." Father, how did this happen?

**Father:** (very seriously) It is very strange, isn't it? Perhaps the birds dropped seeds to spell out your name.

**George:** Father, you can't be serious. Someone had to plant those seeds. This just wouldn't happen by chance.

**Father:** That's right, George. That's very good thinking. You've come up with the correct conclusion. You've solved the riddle of the cabbage patch.

**George:** But who would do such a thing? And why?

**Father:** (broad smile) George, I planted those seeds. I thought it would be a good problem for you to solve. Can you tell me the problem?

**George:** There is no way the cabbages could grow to spell my name.

**Father:** Yes. And what else?

**George:** Well, someone planned on placing the seeds in a certain order to spell out my name when they grew.

**Father:** Excellent! George. Yes, there had to be a plan. Remember this lesson, son. Rarely do important things happen by chance. If you want to accomplish something important, there always must be a plan.

**Narrator:** These important lessons about sharing and planning were learned when George was merely eight years old. He would remember them and put them to good use throughout his life.